

Remarks

This amendment is filed in response to the Office Action dated December 28, 2004. Claims 4, 6, 8, 21-23 and 27 have been amended. Claims 1, 5, 7, 9-20, 24-26 and 29 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 3-4, 6, 8, 21-23, and 27-28 are currently pending. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Applicant respectfully thanks the Examiner for indicating that claim 3 was allowed and for indicating that claims 4, 6, 8, 21-23 and 27-28 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant has rewritten claims 4, 6, 8, 21-23, and 27 in independent form. Claim 28 depends from claim 27. Applicant also notes that as claims 4, 6, and 8 were rewritten in independent form, some minor changes were made for clarity, including amending some of the text from claim 2. The text from claim 2 that recited:

before the step (a), the step of simultaneously forming a word line that is a component of the DRAM and a connection layer that is located in a common layer of the word line and that electrically connects the lower electrode to another element in the semiconductor device

was amended in claims 4, 6, and 8 to recite:

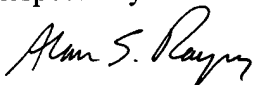
before the step (a), the step of simultaneously forming a word line that is a component of the DRAM and a connection layer that is located in a common layer of the word line;
wherein the connection layer electrically connects the lower electrode to another element in the semiconductor device

Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections of claim 2, 16, 19-20, and 29 have been rendered moot at this time. These claims have been canceled without prejudice to further prosecute these claims at a later time, if desired.

The Examiner made various comments concerning the unpatentability of certain features of the present invention. Applicant respectfully disagrees. In addition, any of the Examiner's comments in the Office Action that have not been discussed above are deemed moot at this time in view of this response.

Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested. If, for any reason, the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner requested to telephone the undersigned to discuss the steps necessary to place the application into condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

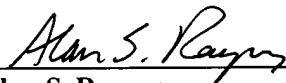

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on March 17, 2005.


Alan S. Raynes March 17, 2005
(Date)